

Positive Alternatives 2017 - 18 Quarterly Update

Grantee: Life Connections

Goal: Provide education and the necessary materials needed to allow children of low-income women to have access to a safe-sleep environment; Provide education and the necessary equipment to allow children of low-income women to be transported safely; increase community awareness; provide a comprehensive education program to pregnant and parenting women; provide necessary services to women in need.

Contact Person: Julie Desautels

Phone and Email of Contact: 320.491.7089

For the period: October 1-December 31, 2017

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
Administrative Activities	<p>Staff: Executive Director—oversees implementation and provides guidance to grant staff, orients volunteers to programs, orients interpreters to programs, distributes crib and car seat program protocols & updates to agencies.</p> <p>Staff: Financial Services/Resource and Education Coordinator—assesses needs, assures proper certifications are in place, establishes written protocols,</p>		Beginning our new emergency assistance program has involved a lot of hours. We have had staff trainings, presentations to local organizations, working with our translators, and welcoming new counties to our programs. The work has continued as we moved into the second quarter.	

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
	liaisons with stores and community contacts, maintains educational materials and files, orders supplies, provides financial and other services for grant-related purposes			
Outreach	The Outreach Coordinator promotes community awareness, promotes positive pregnancy alternatives in the community, seeks out donor support, and recruits and trains volunteers. Maintains bus and bench advertisements, continuing to match the message with the audience; obtains necessary MDH approvals		We have promoted our programs at the Alexandria Technical College Fair, the Early Childhood Initiative, and the United Way Building Connections. We are in the middle of re-naming our organization. We are in search of a logo, and then new signage will need to be placed on all bus and bench advertisements.	
Car Seat Program	Participants receive hands-on training from a Certified Car Seat Technician. Upon completion of the training they receive a certificate for an appropriate car seat from a local retailer.	18	Last quarter we were 3 car seats under our goal, but this quarter we were 3 over! So our goal remains average. We conducted 8 post-evaluation car seat checks as part of our evaluation program, finding one child in a dangerously installed seat.	21
Case Management/Financial Assistance (HeartBEATS)	Tier 1: Piggy Bank Fund Staff: Volunteers, Program Coordinator Assess client need; determine if there are available programs in the community to meet this need; provide immediate emergency	6	This program helped with many different needs. Many people are hearing of it and public health and social services are referring clients.	24

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
	<p>assistance when community help is not available; consider client referral to Tiers 2 or 3</p> <p>Tier 2: HUGS (Hope, Understanding, & Greater Stability) Staff: Volunteers, Program Coordinator, Steering Committee, Coaches Assess client need through an application and interview; determine if there are available programs in the community to meet this need; go over budgeting, talk about alternatives, develop a plan; submit emergency assistance request to steering committee when community help is not available; consider client referral to Tier 3</p> <p>Tier 3: Transitions (Empowerment for Long Term Success) Staff: Volunteers, Program Coordinator, Steering Committee, Coaches Assess client goals through an application and interview; foster a close partnership with client for a 3-6+ month individualized program; work on goal-setting, action plan</p>	<p>3-4</p> <p>1-2</p>	<p>Public Health and social services staff have been referring many clients to this program. Although the number of clients is quite large, we have been able to work with clients and their creditors to keep the payments down.</p> <p>3 clients have continued working with a mentor. We are fielding situations including domestic abuse, housing, transportation, language barriers, and job coaching. This one-on-one service model is good. We have begun working with committees from the Tech College and another community group as we advocate for these clients.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3</p>

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
	development, and participant accountability; if funds are needed submit plan to steering committee for approval; collaborate with community agencies and professionals to coordinate services if needed			
Crib Distribution/ Sleep Safety Education	Participants receive education from a public health nurse. Upon completion of the education, they receive a certificate for safe sleep furniture from a local retailer.	37	This was a slower quarter for cribs	30
Interpreter Services	Participants receive services from Spanish-speaking interpreters. There will be a focus on the car seat program due to the importance of dialogue and interaction during the activity, however, all services have potential for enhancement.	1	This service continues to grow. We are partnering with other community agencies as we all see a great need for this.	4
Life-Skills Education Program	Based on her interests and needs, participant selects educational topics. Advocate encourages, instructs, and assesses progress. Includes Life Coaching and Red Cross lifesaving classes. Incentives are provided for completion of sessions.	4	We added a trained Dave Ramsey instructor to our team. Three people have done financial management, one took CPR, and 4 participated in coaching	8
Material Support	New mothers receive from OB staff or Public Health nurse a layette containing promotional material about Birthright,	24	We gave away many more last quarter, which carried over to this quarter.	18

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
	information, baby clothing, diapering supplies, and other items a new mother would find useful.			
Nutrition	Clients may receive one supplemental can of formula per month.	60	Perhaps we aimed too high with our estimate. Or perhaps the breastfeeding classes have kept this number lower than we anticipated!	82
Parenting Education	Based on her interests and needs, participant selects educational topics pertinent to improving parenting skills. Advocate encourages, instructs, and assesses progress. Incentives are provided for completion of sessions.	3	We had two dads take parenting classes, and 1 mom took shaken baby training	3
Pregnancy Education	Based on her interests and needs, participant selects educational topics. Advocate encourages, instructs, and assesses progress. Incentives are provided for completion of sessions.	2	No one signed up for any of these sessions this quarter.	0
Provide Necessary Services to All Clients	Provide intake assessment to determine need. Provide women with information on, referral to and assistance with securing pregnancy support services. Utilize resource database to provide information and make referrals	45	48 new clients found their way to our office this quarter. Crib, car seat, and emergency assistance were the greatest needs we saw.	48

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
Provide Necessary Services Assessments Only	Staff provides clients only intake assessments, information on, referral to and assistance with securing necessary services	2-4	2 women were given assessments and intake regarding HeartBEATS, but they were ultimately able to find their own help	2
Transportation	Gas cards will be offered to women as needed to enable them to participate in the Opps & Apps program.	4	1 client was give transportation help through the parenting education program, and 23 through the emergency assistance program.	24

Maternal and Child Health Initiative Task Force Strategies	No.
<i>Number of women who received car seats and car seat safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	21
<i>Number of women who received car seat safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	3
<i>Number of women who received child abuse prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	2
<i>Number of women who received abusive head trauma (shaken baby) prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	2
<i>Number of women who received a baby bed, crib, or pack-n-play and sleep safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	30
<i>Number of women who received sleep safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	30

Challenges: Our biggest challenge is the name change. We have to change over all materials. We continue to work on promoting the parenting classes.

Comments: